

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03111 070855Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /078 W
-----129655 070859Z /23/14

O P 060945Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9181
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3111

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

PRETORIA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV RH UK US
SUBJ: RHODESIA: ZAMBIAN EFFORT TO KEEP LINES OPEN TO SMITH

1. NAPHY NYALUGWE, EDITOR OF THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA, CALLED CHARGE
SEPTEMBER 6 TO ASK THAT AN OPEN LETTER TO SMITH SIGNED BY
HIM AND APPEARING ON EDITORIAL PAGE OF TIMES OF ZAMBIA SEPT-
EMBER 6 BE BROUGHT TO SMITH'S ATTENTION TODAY. HE SAID THAT HE
WOULD LIKE SMITH'S REACTION TO THE LETTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
ASKED IF HE WAS MAKING THE REQUEST IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF ZAMBIA, NYALUGWE HESTATED AND THEN SAID REQUEST WAS
BEING MADE ON BEHALF OF ZAMBIA'S NEWSPAPERS. AFTER CONSUL-
TATION WITH THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, BRITS HAVE AGREED
TO SEND THE OPEN LETTER TO SALISBURY. THIS OPEN LETTER WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 03111 070855Z

NOT HAVE APPEARED IN THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA NOR WOULD A REQUEST
TO BRING IT TO SMITH'S ATTENTION HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT STATE
HOUSE BEING INVOLVED.

2. LETTER IS AN ATTEMPT, PERHAPS MISGUIDED, TO KEEP THE
NKOMO-SMITH DIALOGUE GOING. CONCILIATORY PASSAGES DESIGNED
TO APPEASE SMITH ARE BALANCED BY OTHERS WHICH COULD DRIVE

HIM FURTHER FROM ANY IDEA OF NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A TRANSFERRAL OF POWER. A CENTRAL THEME OF THE LETTER IS THAT THE TIME HAS NOW COME TO CONFIRM IN PUBLIC WHAT HE ALLEGEDLY HAS SAID IN PRIVATE--HIS READINESS TO TURN OVER POWER. SUCH A PUBLIC AFFIRMATION WOULD GO A WAY TOWARDS GETTING ZAMBIA OFF THE HOOK WHERE IT NOW FINDS ITSELF AFTER THIS LAST WEEKEND'S SUMMIT. ZAMBIANS BACKED THE SMITH-NKOMO TALKS BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED SMITH WAS SINCERE. NYERERE IN PUBLIC AND MACHEL IN PRIVATE HAVE SAID IN EFFECT THAT ZAMBIA WAS MISGUIDED IN SO BELIEVING. A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY SMITH AFFIRMING A WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT COULD BE CITED AS PROOF THAT KAUNDA WAS RIGHT AND NYERERE WRONG. SIGNIFICANT PASSAGES OF THE LETTER FOLLOW:

"WE DO NOT NORMALLY WRITE OPEN LETTERS. BUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION HAS FORCED US TO PEN THIS ONE TO YOU IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. WE HOPE YOU WILL HAVE THE MAGNANIMITY TO RESPOND FAVORABLY."

-- "WE DO NOT WANT THE RHODESIAN ECONOMY DESTROYED. WHAT WE WANT IS AN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL CONTROL TO BE IN THE HANDS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THAT UNHAPPY COUNTRY. BE ASSURED THAT THE STRUGGLE IN RHODESIA AGAINST YOU AND THE RACIALLY-BASED PRIVILEGE IS NOT MOTIVATED BY SOME SINISTER COMMUNIST PLOT. IT IS MOTIVATED BY THE DEEP-SEATED WISH OF A PEOPLE TO RID THEMSELVES OF FOREIGN AND RACIAL DOMINATION."

-- "WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO BELIEVE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME YOU
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUSAKA 03111 070855Z

NOW CORRECTLY RECOGNIZE THAT YOU AND YOUR POLICIES FOR RHODESIA HAVE COME TO A DEAD END. WE ARE ALSO READY TO BELIEVE THAT YOU WANT TO HAND OVER POWER TO THE MAJORITY. BUT MR. SMITH, WHAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO DO SO IN AN ORDERLY MANNER IS THAT PEOPLE HAVE COME TO KNOW THAT WHAT YOU SAY IN PRIVATE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM YOUR PUBLIC UTTERANCES. AS A RESULT NO ONE TRUSTS YOU MR. SMITH. YOUR PAST RECORD GIVES YOU VERY LITTLE CREDIBILITY AS A SINCERE POLITICIAN WHO HONORS HIS WORD. HENCE THE CONTROVERSY OVER YOUR LATEST ALLEGED OVERTURES TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT."

-- "YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN CONVINCE THEM THAT THIS TIME YOU ARE GENUINE IN YOUR ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN RHODESIA. THIS IS WHAT YOU MUST DO. YOU MUST DO IT FAST.WITH NO IFS OR BUTS YOU MUST SAY OUTRIGHT AND PUBLICLY THAT YOU WILL NOW HAND OVER POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WHOSE LEADERS ARE MR. JOSHUA NKOMO AND MR. ROBERT MUGABE. BY POWER WE MEAN THE CONTROL OF THE ARMY, THE AIR FORCE AND THE POLICE AND OTHER TRAPPINGS OF STATE CONTROL."

-- "WE CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS NO WISH TO DRIVE THE WHITES OR OTHER NON-AFRICANS FROM THEIR HOMES IN RHODESIA." THAT THIS IS POSSIBLE HAS BEEN SHOWN BY WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN ZAMBIA AND MALAWI. "SOTIT COULD BE (IN RHODESIA)

IF YOU TAKE THE PLUNGE NOW. TELL THE PATRIOTIC FRONT THAT YOU
ARE PREPARED TO HAND OVER POWER, TOTAL POWER, TO THEM."
-- "IN THE PURSUIT OF THAT GOAL, YOU CAN MEET THE LEADERS OF
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ANYWHERE. YOU CAN COME HERE TO ZAMBIA NOT
SECRETLY ANY MORE. YOU CAN GO TO BOTSWANA. INDEED YOU CAN
GO TO THE CAPITALS OF OTHER FRONTLINE STATES. IF YOU WISH
COME TO MULUNGUSHI THIS WEEKEND SAY SO OPENLY. IF YOU DO WHAT
IS RIGHT NOW HISTORY MAY YET REGARD YOU AS A STATESMAN--MAYBE
ONE WHO MISUNDERSTOOD THE TIDE OF EVENTS BUT ONE WHO NEVERTHE-
LESS HAD THE COURAGE TO FACE THE INEVITABLE WHEN HE SAW IT."
CLINGERMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA03111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780366-0865, D780364-1043
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780999/aaaaddqy.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 027ffa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1533401
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: ZAMBIAN EFFORT TO KEEP LINES OPEN TO SMITH
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, RH, UK, US, ZA, (SMITH, IAN D), (NYALUGWE, NAPHY)
To: STATE PRETORIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/027ffa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014